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The true melody of song
The depths of the overtones
And all of the major and minor
keys
That echo in the hearts of men
Come out under the stars and
Rest beneath my branches.
And through you will flow
The Strength of the Universe
The Peace that cometh with under-
standing
The Quiet that all men seek apart
The perfect Companionship for the
soul
And God. —Byrd Carter.

MAY
1941

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Botanical Nomenclature—The Genera

By ETTA FLORENCE ADAIR

Botanical nomenclature is Latin in form. Many botanical names are Latin, and such as are not, are made to conform to one or the other of the five Latin declensions. However, a few Greek names remain in the Greek form.

There is good reason for the adoption of such a system of nomenclature. Latin is a language widely understood by scholars, and its inflexional character is an aid in classification. Moreover, many of our plant names came down to us in the Latin language, for we had botanists (we called them herbalists) as early as 400 B.C. The Greek philosopher Theophrastus (372-288 B.C.) wrote a History of Plants and described about 500 species used in the treatment of diseases. In the first century A.D. Dioscorides, a Greek physician, wrote on *Materia Medica*, which details the properties of some 600 plants. His contemporary, Pliny the Elder, described a thousand species, many of them famous for their medicinal virtues. Botanists of the Renaissance found works such as these ready to hand, and in the Latin language. Brumfells, Fuchs, Turner, the father of English botany, and others added to this store of knowledge. Then came John Gerard, a barber-surgeon, who evolved a botanical system based on the appearance and uses of plants; but it remained for Linnaeus to formulate the system

of plant classification which is the basis of the Natural System, in use today. Thus we inherited our botany in the Latin language, and continued it in the same.

In the Natural System the species is the plant. All species of a single race constitute a genus; related genera constitute a family; allied families constitute an order; related orders are grouped into a class; every class belongs to a division; and each division belongs to a subcommunity of the plant kingdom.

Every plant name is a binomial (Latin *bi*—two, and *nomen*, name). The first term of the binomial is the name of the genus to which the plant belongs. The second term is the name of the species of the plant. The first term is a noun, the second term, a modifier of the noun. The noun has the form of the nominative singular of any one of the five Latin declensions.

Of the first declension are names such as *Rosa*, *Salvia*, *Spiraea*. Of the second declension are names like *Citrus* and *Laurus*. Of the second declension are also nouns with masculine in *-er*, as *Acer*, the maple genus, and neuter in *-um*, as *Lilium*, the genus of the lily.

We may use either the Latin or the Anglicized plural of generic names. The use of a generic name in the plural is only a transference of the name to the species of the genus, for strictly speaking there is no plural of the generic name, for there is but one of any given genus.

In the case of some nouns of the second declension the use of the Anglicized plural often gives rise to a form difficult of pronunciation, as *Gladioluses*, in which case the Latin form of the plural, *Gladioli*, is preferable.

Latin nouns of the third declension have the nominative singular in a great variety of endings, being final in *-a*, *-e*, *-i*, *-o*, *-y*, *-c*, *-l*, *-n*, *-r*, *-s*, *-t*, and *-x*. Some of these are masculine, some are feminine, and some are neuter. Here belong nouns in *-ex*, as *Ilex*, the holly genus, in *-is*, as *Iris*, the fleur-de-lis, and in *-ns*, as *Lens*, the genus of the lentil.

Nouns of the fourth declension have the nominative singular in *-us* and *-u*, those of the fifth declension, in *-es*. These nouns are not frequent among plant names. The favorite declension with botanists is the first, the feminine declension, with nominative in *-a*.

Probably more than half of all generic names are from the Greek and Latin of the Ancients. Some genera simply take the ancient name of one or more of their species, as *Paeonia*, *Hibiscus*, *Amaranthus*, and *Phoenix*. A few ancient plant names somewhere down the centuries suffered a transfer to another plant. *Smilax* was in ancient times the name of the yew tree and certain other plants as well. *Cactus* was the Greek name for any thorny plant. *Lotus* was a name applied to different plants. A few generic names are from Late Latin and Medieval Latin, as *Primula* and *Filipendula*.

It may be well to note that Latin is called *Classic* from about 80 B.C.

to 180 A.D., Late, up to the sixth century, Medieval, to the sixteenth century, and Modern or New, to the present time. And concurrent with the living language of the learned was the Vulgar Latin the vernacular, out of which arose the romance languages.

Many Greek plant names found their way into Latin and took on the Latin form. Thus the Greek delphinion became the Latin delphinium; the Greek thymos became the Latin thymus. Botany then adopts the Latin form. But many Greek plant names that did not find their way into Latin have been Latinized by modern botanists. A very few of these retain the Greek form, as *rhododendron*. Many generic names are simple derivations or compounds newly formed from Greek and Latin words and elements, and especially from Greek words and elements, as *Photinia* and *Pentstemon*, from the Greek, *Calendula*, from the Latin.

Generally speaking, all botanical names are Latin, Classic, Late Medieval, or New. All names directly from the Greek are New Latin, since they must be transliterated. Names from the living Latin are New Latin if they differ by a single letter from the Latin form. They are New Latin if they are given a different meaning as a botanical name. The Latin adjective *florus*, a, um meant bright, shining. Our botanists have given it the meaning flowering, flowered, as in *grandiflora*, large flowered. They are New Latin if their Latin meaning has been extended, as indeed it has been in the case of many of our generic names that represent ancient plant names. And since names from all sources other than Greek and Latin are New Latin, botanical names are for the most part New Latin.

A considerable number of generic names are from plant names in languages other than Greek and Latin. *Thea*, the tea genus, is from the Chinese *ch'a o rts'a*, tea. *Catha* is from the Arabic *qat*, a shrub the leaves of which the Arabs chew, and also steep for tea. *Sassafras* is from

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Residential Planting—A Comment

By LUCIA KERR

In California we have an opportunity for splendid effects in the use of plant materials which is unsurpassed in any other section of the country. The climate permits us to grow the plants of the temperate, the sub-tropical, and some plants of the tropical regions; those of the desert and the heavily watered areas. This means not just that there are more varieties of plants in cultivation in California than in most other sections of the country, but that there are more appearance types available for special gardens, such as the isolated cactus, begonia, fuschia garden and for special purposes, Pueblo plantings, or an English cottage garden, and above all for contrasts and dramatic effects in general plantings. This diversity in plant materials has, I think, been the determining factor in the artistic merit of our gardens.

The great wealth of plant types which will flourish with just reasonable care here in Southern California has occasioned a sportive feeling for experimentation in plant combinations and a tremendous horticultural enthusiasm, the results of which, when applied to general residential planting, are frequently of questionable taste. The important thing in gardens anywhere, whether they are boulevard plantings, large gardens covering an acreage, or tiny entrance ways to simple bungalows, is a unified appearance, both in the basic plan and the details which bring it to maturity. Also, it should be appropriate to the needs of the people for whom it is designed. These are the elements of good taste in any art form.

In the hands of those trained in the artistic use of plant materials and those who will take the care to be discriminating, this diversity is a great incentive for the creation of the beautiful and the dramatic in accordance with a unified plan. Yet this wonderful diversity of

plant life distracts many of the average home owners in achieving really effective planting schemes. I'm not without wild infatuations for particular plants. Peppermint geranium, *Pelargonium piperita*, the one with the broad, marvelously fuzzy and fragrant leaves, has the same effect upon me that catnip has upon the felines. But when I bring one home, it is with the intention of using it in a suitable place. Of course, I might bring it anyway—which makes me modify my approach slightly.

If you have a spot which needs a plant, and a plant you'd like to use for a spot, there are two questions that you should ask yourself. 1. Is that plant the precise form, texture, color required by the particular location and is it perfectly in keeping with everything else that I have? Or, 2. Am I so enthusiastic about it that I don't care if it has a detrimental effect upon the appearance of everything else in the garden? It would be a rare occasion indeed, that after a negative response to (1), a sincere positive would be given to (2). Yet, if this amount of thought were to be given to every plant put in the ground, just a moment in comparison to the time required in continual pruning, watering, spraying, not to mention the total hours spent in observing it, how much more attractive would be many of the residential areas of San Diego and Los Angeles!

Where I lived near Philadelphia, every green lawn along my street was edged with three-foot, well-trimmed privet hedges. Nearly every foundation planting was comprised of some of the following list of well related plant materials — the globe and pyramidal arbutus, Pfitzer juniper, *Euonymus*, snowberry and coralberry, *Symphoricarpos racemosus* and *S. vulgaris*; *Daphne cneorum*, (an entirely different thing from Cali-

fornia's daphne, a dainty small leaved shrub with clusters of tiny pink flowers); sweet-scented shrub, *Calycanthus floridus*; Japanese-yew, *Taxus cuspidata*; and azaleas. There were perennial borders behind the houses or along the hedges. Every lot had corner plantings of, largely, needle evergreens. Along the whole length of the street were maple trees planted between curb and walk and as specimens.

Here in San Diego, every lot along the street on which I live is treated in a different manner, both in form and plant materials. One place has a small green bungalow nearly obscured by a jungle of acacias, Monterey Cypress, Italian Cypress, arborvitae, clumps of pampas-grass and aloes, fuchsias and begonias, vinca, and a great outlay of the usual common shrubs, *Pittosporum*, *Plumbago*, *Pyraantha*, *Hibiscus*, etc. As my home affords the above description, I feel privileged to say that while the place is cozy, it would be almost impossible to achieve a more diverse or less tasteful selection of plants. On one side across the street is a Spanish house with cacti planted in the white sand of the desert, and behind the garden wall, among other things, a banana palm, an olive, and a box trimmed as a standard globe. Across the street on the other side is a tropical effect of *Monstera deliciosa*, *Aspidistra lurida*, *Hemographis colorata*, etc., in the arcaded approach to a Florentine Villa. In between these two, and above me, are new, gleaming stucco houses with sparse plantings of this and that.

I wouldn't maintain that all eastern residential streets are as unified and attractive as that along which I lived; and I wouldn't want to infer that all California neighborhoods are as ununified as my present abode, but I do think there is some truth in the comparison. And I wouldn't say the reason is that all Easterners have basic good taste as regards their plant selections and that transplanting them in the bright sunshine upsets their sta-

Bird Parade—Black-Headed Grosbeak

By FRANK FORREST GANDER

Not every bird has a name which describes it so aptly as does that of the Black-headed Grosbeak. Anyone familiar with this name will at once recognize the bird when he sees it—that is, he will recognize the male. The female, like a dutiful wife, bears the name given her spouse, for while her beak is large enough to entitle her to that part of the name, her head is not at all black. Very sparrow-like she is with her soft brown dress streaked with dusky markings, and scarcely would be recognized as the helpmeet of her handsome mate if it were not for the massive beaks which both birds wear.

While these beaks are no larger than those worn by many other grosbeaks, yet in southern California gardens they are quite distinctive. None other of the grosbeak clan is a regular inhabitant of our gardens, and if a shy Blue Grosbeak does occasionally venture so near the house, his beak is much inferior in size to that of his relative. How useful these big beaks are to the grosbeaks! Not only do they serve admirably for cracking sunflower seeds and such dainties, but they function perfectly for picking up large insects and for nibbling at fruit. And the male finds his beak useful, too, as an outlet for song.

When compared with that of the Mockingbird, the song of the Black-headed Grosbeak is prosaic, indeed, but it has a Robin-like quality of cheer and is a welcome sound in my garden. This song suggests that of the Robin in other ways, too, and the bird is just as persistent a singer. Each April I listen for his return from the tropics, for I know that I shall hear him before I see him, even though his garb is quite showy. And each April I do hear him. Then, after the females appear, what a hub-bub of melody there is in the brushy canyons. The males chase each other about, all singing excitedly and with their

bright colors flashing in and out through the spring greenery.

While much of the male's nuptial plumage is black, this is touched up with white in the wings and tail, and the whole is made splendid by a breast of chestnut and by patches of brightest yellow under the wings. He may escape detection while sitting quietly on a leafy twig, but when he launches into flight, he blossoms out like a flower and excites the admiration of all. It must be quite thrilling to one of the modest-colored females to be courted by three or four such dandies.

Nests are placed in large bushes or small trees at from five to ten feet above the ground as a rule. They are loosely made of twigs and lightly lined with finer material. The three or four spotted eggs often may be seen through the bottom of the nest. The male helps with incubation and may so far forget himself as to sing while engaged in this duty and thus advertise the whereabouts of his home to all marauders. The babies are fed largely on insects.

After the young are well-grown, grosbeaks often gather in fair-sized flocks and at such times may be seen hawking for insects in the manner of flycatchers. While their big beak most likely was not developed for this purpose, yet its wide gape does make fly-catching on the wing a practical method of obtaining food. In early fall the grosbeaks move southward, and they are gone before the first of our winter birds arrive from the north.

NOTICE

Mr. Silas Osborn will give a talk on Geraniums and Pelargoniums at the regular monthly meeting to be held Tuesday, May 20th.

Mr. Osborn has made a thorough study of these popular and not too easily grown plants. He will present cultured notes and bring the variety situation up to date.

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COMPLICATIONS and COMMENT

*Call this chitter, but not tattle—call it it gossip, call it prattle—
But whate'er may be its name, call it fun—
This garden game!*

STREET TREES

Knowing and seeing the interest in beautiful things in nature on going through the halls of the Flower Show this year I am moved to say and hereby take the liberty to remark and suggest that San Diego have a few streets planned and planted to some one species as a particular exhibit. I have in mind the famed magnolia plantings in the South and the rhododendron drives of the further North. Those marvels grow here only in part, but others as truly marvelous may take their place in giving our streets some distinction. I leave this thought for those to study who also have in mind the quality of our street planting as it may be improved.

—A. H. Shoven.

CLEAN UP

I wrote Mr. Hoyt a piece of conscientious drivel for the column this month—well, it was all right but drivel is what it seemed when this came up at the Floral Association meeting for January . . . A nice brown eyed gal got up and said for goodness sakes WHY don't we do something about Miss Sessions' Aloe and Agave garden . . . It's a perfect fright and no compliment to Miss Sessions, who wouldn't worry about that if she were around but would give us what—for because of abuse of a good planting and a good idea for this country . . . Well, my own ideas are mixed up in that statement because I'd thought of the subject, too, and had talked about it to someone but not to the floral association because I've been busy with that new "Garden Beautiful" radio program of mine at 9:45 on Sunday mornings and I wish you'd tune me in when feasible. . . Well, the person I talked to about the pathetically weedy Aloe and Agave

garden remarked sagely that even in Heaven on Earth, park staffs were under-manned and extra plantings are liable to suffer unless some special interest comes their way. . . BUT WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW is what's to prevent US from contributing that special interest . . . We can pull weeds and straighten walks and drag a rake, can't we? . . . Why we could have a clean-up picnic there under W. Allen Perry's supervision, after a good rain, and then Miss Sessions' plants, and her marker, and her stone bench won't be lost in a disgraceful weed patch . . . And Floral Association members who hire gardeners could donate one day of their gardeners' services under supervision and get the place really groomed . . . Kicking on the door with this, and yours truly, and signing my full name, I am, Ada Lorraine Perry.

ROSES—SULPHUR VS. OIL

Timely, indeed, was the treatise on "Rose Diseases In Southern California," together with suggested treatment, as outlined by Silas B. Osborn in recent issues of California Garden.

The description of the two fungus diseases most seriously affecting rose plants in this vicinity, Powdery Mildew and Orange Rust, and the suggested treatment for control of these ravagers of the queen of all garden plants, should prove of inestimable value and aid to rose growers, and make it possible to attain a greater measure of success in the production of healthy, clean foliage and bigger, better and more colorful blooms.

Dusting with sulphur, the application of a spray of wettable sulphur and the potassium sulfide spray methods are the most generally accepted control advised by authorities here and elsewhere, and there can be no gainsaying but that the

dusting and sulphur spray methods do give a large measure of successful control.

I find much food for thought, however, in the following sentence of Mr. Osborn's article:

"Considerable investigation is needed to augment information now on hand."

Practically for as long as I can remember, sulphur has been advanced by authorities as the most practicable agency for control of rose diseases. It is only at infrequent intervals that some other substance is suggested as a possible improvement, and there are now several types of spray materials offered on the market which are claimed to be the last word in effectiveness for control of mildew and rust.

A thorough irreconcilable when it comes to garden practices, I have never accepted for granted the infallibility of many of the suggestions offered by authorities.

By trial and error I seek facts.

I try this and that substance and combination of substances until I find a solution that most effectively solves my problem.

It is an indisputable fact that, considering the enormous sums spent in research, little has actually been accomplished toward a more satisfactory solution for methods of control of rose fungus diseases.

In fifty years, sulphur has been and still is the one remedy offered by a huge majority of authorities, by far the largest proportion of whom are sincere in their research efforts and faith in their findings. Of the more recent spray materials offered as improvements over sulphur dusting and sulphur sprays, one or two really seem to prove their claim to superiority.

Of these recent offerings, there are some that prove every whit as successful as sulphur dust and sulphur sprays, but most of these newer spray materials have sulphur as their primary ingredient, or base. Some, however, are miscible oils containing certain proportions of copper.

Some people swear by the dusting method; some by wettable sulphur spray. Others have faith only in the

newly "patented" spray materials with a sulphur base. And still another element depends on the efficacy of miscible oils with copper content.

Personally, I "tie in" with the latter group, having found the oil-copper method as proving the more effective, the more simplified, and the cleanest practice of them all.—WM. VON MUELLER.

ANOTHER "JAG"

Colchicine is a poisonous drug that is taken from the roots of the autumn crocus, sometimes known as meadow saffron. Its recent and experimental use in artificially creating new varieties in plants is drumming up popular interest that reminds us of the early days in the life and adventures of vitamin B1. And it may very well be that here too, when the froth has been blown off the mug of propaganda, will be found uses and methods of improving flowers and vegetables and fruits. Long is the wait in the normal course of bud sports or mutations for improvement, and even with modern methods of plant breeding and selection in stepping up the tempo, are we impatient. Every gardener can think of one or many imperfections in the plants with which he works and would gladly salute . . . in high accord and approval, the efforts of science that clear out the pebbles in our old work shoe.—Hattie Rumble-shucks.

William Lyon Phelps divides all readers into two classes: those who read to remember and those who read to forget. Now it occurs to me that many who read *Complications and Comment* here, fall into the latter designation and that explains the paucity of material for this column . . . they forget their personal responsibility in keeping the feature alive and passing along their own experience to other gardeners who may live only around the corner.—R.S.H.

Gleanings from the Magazines

By IDA LOUISE BRYANT

DESERT PLANT LIFE for March, in a review of the current "International Flower Show in New York City, has the writer, a man, say rather plaintively about the South American exhibit: "The women folk, especially, crowded about the displays and seemed reluctant to move on. There were at least a thousand women to every man present." Could there have been—or did it merely seem so? And then a note of hope: "That was the situation in the morning and afternoon. Maybe by evening there was a better equalization of the sexes."

It doesn't seem to us that there is such a preponderance of women at our local shows. Do we have more garden-minded men, or are they more amiable about accompanying their women-folk to something they inwardly detest? We will never know.

The magazine's Feb. issue had the script of a radio interview as broadcast from a Massachusetts station, the title: *Cacti as Window-garden Plants*. It answers a lot of the questions we ignorami on the subject are bursting with; if you, too, are acquainted with only the most obvious points on cacti, look up the issue at the City Library.

GOLDEN GARDENS for March lists the "Nation's Best Flowers" according to the All America Selections. Imagine the heartburning, the despair, in the flower-world, when the names of the lucky ones who drew places on the list are given out! To be frightfully whimsical, there's probably many a haughty beauty who hoped for a place on the honor roll who will never hold up her head again, and will be bowed out of the picture by flower growers because of her weak neck!

Marigolds and petunias, it seems, lead in the choice this year, with petunias leading with four varieties, to three of marigolds. It isn't just

Californians, then, who should wilt under the chidings (verbal) of Mr. Alfred Hottes for their blind devotion to petunias. It is true, there must be other free-blooming, pest-free bedding plants as satisfactory, year in, year out, as petunias, but with the little boy being told about all the children who would LOVE to have his nice spinach, we say "Name Six."

Also in GOLDEN GARDENS, "Ferns for California" will be found helpful to lath house and shady corner gardeners; and "Herbs in the Garden" provides information for gardener, and housewife as well.

GARDEN GOSSIP, our exchange with Virginia, has in its March number "Adventuring with Annual Vines." It seems to us particularly fitted for gardening readers who live in rented houses . . . we are thinking of California, where the usual foundation planting of coprosma, lantana in shades of orange, pink, scarlet and yellow, and painfully trimmed eugenia and pittosporum in variety does get tiresome. There are many lovely annual vines that will grow quickly and bloom promptly from seed, and require practically nothing in the way of equipment on the part of the gardener except a spray gun, a can of liquid fungicide, a package of snail bait, a box of lead arsenate, a duster each of Paris Green and Bordeaux Mixture, and a dozen or so dispensers for ant poisons. For particular pest problems, special cases, and important pests, write for our Garden Guide.

TREES, in its March-April number gives the planter of Street trees much technical information in an article called "Living in a Man-hole," the title descriptive of the scanty arrangements for forage in many street plantings. Apropos of that, we recall showing our Miss Sessions, with fear and trembling, the small opening left in a home-made cement and flag walk around the stem of a wistaria vine, and her surprising comment, "Those roots will have the whole sidewalk to spread out under, and will get the benefit of every drop of water there is. Don't change it."

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HOMES AND GARDENS, a new magazine to us, coming from Los Angeles, has much excellent material; it is a nicely balanced mixture of easy reading and technical information and should prove manna in the wilderness to new gardeners in our part of the state. We thought the suggestions for keeping Garden Club members a vital part of their organizations were particularly apt.

SUBTROPICAL GARDENING for Feb. really goes to town on the Billboard Control project; and it is encouraging to see how the Garden Clubs in many states have furnished the spark that set public opinion blazing. The National Roadside Council holds that no billboards should be permitted outside of true business districts, the latter defined as sections sufficiently congested to require a reduction to twenty-five miles per hour. The Council believes that the state should control the entire "Transportation corridor," both for safety and to protect the great investment of the people on highways.

The steps taken by improvement groups and garden clubs in New York state, Penn. and Virginia in their fight against billboard encroachment are detailed; it makes one rejoice that there are still, in this materialistic age, people who have the courage and will spend the energy to fight for the cause of roadside beauty. Much has been done in California; but our own city, in its tacit acceptance of the "Ribbon Slums" growing up along our main approaches, could do more. What good a beautiful park in the center of the city if the visitor on his way into town has been harangued and advised and screamed at by huge billboards telling him what beer to drink, what disinfectants to use, what gas to burn, what soft drinks, what shoe-polish, what whiskey, in one continuous shout.

San Diego has no City Beautiful organization, as such; La Jolla has a Conservation Society, which, we hear, has accomplished much in the way of retaining the natural beauty of that lovely spot, as well as in dis-

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Problems of the Soil

By R. R. McLEAN, County Agricultural Commissioner

GRAPEFRUIT

Q.—I am enclosing some diseased leaves of a grapefruit tree. Will you please advise what to do for the yellowing of the leaves and the rust-like looking appearance on them. Will you please tell me what the trouble is and the remedy?—MISS L. S.

A.—The leaves you sent us were affected by a condition known as gum spot. The small raised pustules, usually of a brown or reddish brown color, smooth and hard on the surface and varying in size, are quite common on citrus leaves, particularly on grapefruit.

A number of causes have been assigned for this condition but is thought to be produced by a slight frost followed by bright sunshine. These spots also appear to be induced by slight sunburning and possibly also by certain spray materials. This condition is rarely serious enough to warrant any attempted control, even if any were known. Apparently the present season has been favorable to the development of gum spot as the writer has had many inquiries concerning the trouble. Badly affected leaves are apt to show a yellowing, which was apparent in the specimens sent in by you.

SAND LOT

Q.—I have a cottage at the Beach, the lot is sand soil and weeds and grass seem to thrive in it. Is there anything I can do to rid the yard of grass and weeds so as to have a good sandy yard?

A.—A material known as sodium chlorate, sold by dealers in spray materials and insecticides, either dusted over the weeds and grass in question or else mixed with water and sprayed over them, would be highly effective. The effectiveness of sodium chlorate can be increased by adding borax to it in the proportions of 4 pounds of borax to 1 pound of sodium chlorate, this amount being sufficient for 1 square

rod of infested area. After applying the chlorate, irrigate thoroughly enough to wash the material down to the roots of the plants. The soil will be "killed" for 2 or 3 years or until the chemical has been washed out of it down below the root zone.

Do not use sodium chlorate during excessively hot weather and do not get it on the shoes or clothing as under certain unfavorable conditions, such as might be induced by friction during hot weather, it is more or less combustible. In hot interior states accidents have happened where shoes covered with a sodium chlorate solution have been scuffed along a hard pavement. However, under normal conditions in and around San Diego this material is entirely safe to use.

WORMS AND HOLLYHOCKS

Q.—Would you please tell me what the enclosed worm is? It seems to be in the soil and sometimes finds its way into the house. Is it harmful and what will destroy it?

Also enclosed, a sample of hollyhock leaf. Is it infected with a disease or are the spots caused by rust? The plant is near a water faucet. Will the disease spread to other plants? Don't the California hollyhocks come up from roots perennially as they do in the north? My roots seem to be all dead.

Should morning glories be cut back in the winter so that new vines will cover the trellis? Will the old vines bloom as well and if cut, just when should it be done? Please give name of wild flower enclosed.—MRS. E. E.

A.—The worm sent was a specimen of milliped or "thousand-legged worm." Sometimes these worms have been credited with doing a little damage to young plants and fruit, such as strawberries, lying near the ground, but it is doubtful if it would pay to attempt control measures; in other words, the cost of control would be more than the

value of the plants or fruit protected.

The hollyhock leaf sent was infected with rust, a rather common disease of this plant. About the only way to avoid the disease is to water and fertilize the plants freely so as to promote rapid growth. Even then it is very difficult to keep plants free of the disease in unfavorable seasons, such as this one has been. It is recommended that all old plants be destroyed and new ones be started at least every two years. It is possible also that some strains are more or less resistant to rust. If these can be obtained they should be planted in preference to others. Hollyhocks are, of course, biennials but in this country they may at times be known as "short-lived perennials." In any event they should live until after flowering the second year.

Morning-glories are both annual and perennial. There are several types of the perennial plants and these some authorities recommend should be cut back after blooming. New shoots would then come from the roots and cover the trellis or pergola. If you know exactly what type of morning glory you have, perhaps a little more definite direction could be given you as to cutting back.

The wild flower you sent appears to be what is known as wild heliotrope although it is really a placelia. Its full name is *Placelia distans*.

ALKALI

Q.—My soil has considerable alkali in spots. How can I improve this soil and what shrubs or plants can be used in such places?—J.D.R.

A.—A somewhat similar inquiry was put to Prof. Shepherd of the U. of C., and his reply was that "alkali soils are considerably improved by an application of agricultural sulphur at the rate of 6 pounds per 1000 square feet. Also a generous application of well-rotted cow manure, worked into the soil, will somewhat prevent toxicity and will encourage vigorous growth in both shrubs and vines. Regular applications of water during the

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The Flower Show

By ARTHUR M. SHOVEN

Officers and directors, together with that beauty loving and civic minded group of Floral Association members headed by Mrs. Greer are to be congratulated in the sense of gratitude for the successful staging of the 34th Annual Floral Exhibition. Thanks! Many thanks, Gramercy.

Here is a spot in this war-torn world where "Winter Sunlight" so-called may shine through the beauty of flowers and illumine the mind and heart of man. Long before the snows in some parts of the country have taken their spring leave, colorful patches of wildlings touch our landscape and gardens are full of gay color. Thoughts and experiences assemble and fix themselves there . . . this is Springtime, and it is the nature of things that we gather together for this annual event.

I suppose we can say garden flowers came to San Diego with the Spanish Padres more than 300 years ago and, in a way, have remained native to the city ever since. So it is appropriate that the Show is held in beautiful Balboa Park, of Spanish flavor in name and in architecture and almost in the varying landscapes themselves.

The association thanks these people and acknowledges the full cooperation of the management of the park, the Navy; the many nursery companies; the Junior League; the CCC camp boys of Mr. Boldaugh, together with that of the schools; Jessops; Parmelee-Dohrmans; the Exclusive Florists and so many others. To the many individual exhibitors, too numerous to mention we say thanks and in some cases more luck next time . . . or, is it lack of appreciation on the part of the judges.

In the display of flowers in bottles by the Junior League members, an outstandingly colorful showing won ten awards. With spring and a wet season during the winter, the showing of wildflowers from the Ra-

mona Spring Hill School was the personification in flowers of the new season taking a fresh start for the year. We appreciate the "Mill Shack" of the Navy and the more so, knowing the strain these people are working under, these times of defense.

Forrest L. Hiatt of La Mesa, we presume, would rather grow roses than any of the other things that round out a well-spent life of service. His 36 rose varieties took a special award while Chula Vista's H. R. Turnwell and his best rose of the show carried off the silver cup. Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Lane of Chula Vista for a collection of 15 varieties, a cup, and also E. R. Bliss Jr. of Coronado for 10 varieties.

Dr. Theodore A. Cockerell, an outstanding and nationally known naturalist, displayed a species of desert rose he has brought out of Baja California. This was most interesting. For the most outstanding professional display, Mrs. Thomas and Max were given the Association Medal for the K. O. Sessions Nursery display.

Miss Alice Greer displayed, as always, under a card of no competition and as usual, comments were in the form of exclamations. We little realize from year to year our indebtedness to the Greers for continued interest and hard dirt work toward the success of the activities of the floral group.

Doubtless few people passed the table arrangements without repressing an urge to take a chair . . . that is, sit at these truly superior compositions with friends and feast . . . things of the spirit, an Ode to applied art in their heart. Many were the new ideas as to gardens and flowers, even to the treatment of a bath house. Again outstanding and again not in competition was Balboa Park corner. Again are we grateful to W. Allen Perry and his helpers.

Of great attraction to many people was the subtropical fruit display

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Nomenclature

By ETTA FLORENCE ADAIR

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the Spanish sasafras. Jacaranda is Portuguese.

Many indeed are the generic names given in honor of men, usually botanists, naturalists, herbalists, or patrons of botany or the natural sciences. Often they commemorate the man who discovered or described the plant. Some few do honor to men renowned in war or statecraft, or glorious otherwise. Many of these names have been in use so long or have become so common that we do not think of them as representing the names of men. Among these are Begonia, named for Michael Begon, 1638-1710, a French magistrate and promoter of science; Camellia, named for George Joseph Kamel, a Moravian jesuit and traveler of the seventeenth century, whose Latinized name was Camellus; Dahlia, for Andreas Dahl, a Swedish botanist of the eighteenth century; Gardenia, for Alex Garden, 1730-1791, a botanist and physician of Charleston, South Carolina; Poinsettia, for Joel Roberts Poinsett, United States minister to Mexico from 1825 to 1829. A few generic names do honor to femininity, as Iris, for the rainbow goddess; Veronica, for the saint who is said to have given a handkerchief to Christ on his way to Calvary; Monsonia, for Lady Ann Monson.

Every generic name is a noun and is singular, regardless of its grammatical form and real significance. Oxalis, the wood sorrel genus, is a Greek adjective meaning sharp, as to touch, taste, or sound. The Greeks called a word oxytone, that is, sharp-toned, if it had the acute accent on the final syllable; otherwise it was barytone, deep-toned. And here we have the source of our Italian baritone, the designation of a certain voice in singing. Aerides, a genus of the orchid family, is plural. It is a patronymic, from the Greek aer, air, with the patronymic suffix -ides, a feminine plural term-

ination. Then literally Aerides means daughters of the air. We have the Greek prototype in Hesperides, daughters of Hesperos, the guardians of the "golden apples." But we must interpret this generic name as children of the air, for the author of the name, Loureiro, calls it neuter gender, and only the young may be thus distinguished. Joao Loureiro was a Portuguese missionary to China and Cochinchina when George Washington was leading our armies to victory. During his thirty-six years' stay in the Orient he saw these wild orchids growing in profusion all the way from India to the eastern coast of China. Impressed by the sight of their delicate roots, wholly dependent upon the air for their nourishment, he named them children of the air. Asclepias, the genus of the milkweed, is also a feminine patronymic, but it is singular. Literally the name denotes a daughter of Asclepius, the titulary god of medicine, and by inference we are led to the conclusion that the ancient Greek donor of the name found in the plant some healing quality. And so, whatever the part of speech or the grammatical form of a word, when it is placed behind the mask of the generic front it becomes a noun, and singular in number.

The derivatives of Orchis are formed upon an erroneous stem. Lindley evidently took orchis to be a consonant-stem noun, with stem orchid, but it is an i-stem noun. The family name should be Orchidaceae (not Orchidaceae, and the English common name should be orchid, or the nominative orchis. Liquidamber is a mongrel word, the first element of which is Latin, and the second element Arabic. More often such names are a combination of Greek and Latin elements, as Alternanthera, from the Latin alternus, alternate, and the New Latin anthera, anther, from the Greek antheros, blooming. However, New Latin compounds of Classic elements are usually all-Greek or all-Latin in derivation.

Residential Planting

By LUCIA KERR

(Continued from Page 3)

bility. The point is that, luckily for the average Easterner who doesn't care about being spectacular, he happens to achieve simplicity because he can't grow cacti and fuchsias on the same street where his neighbors are growing dogwood and Viburnums. The plants available are privets, maples, and others similar to the list I gave above. But in California "rarities" are too common, and the desert cacti will thrive one hundred feet from Monstera deliciosa of the tropics. Some people have the poor taste to desire, but few can honestly see the sense in having six summer residences, a dozen automobiles or twenty dresses for the same function. Why then for the average situations do we consider it glorious to grow so many plants, each one detracting from the effectiveness of the other? So fre-

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quently a row of six abelias would be effective under the windows of a house, with Italian Cypress on either side of the doorway, but instead, we see one heavy green Pittosporum, one diaphanous Palo Verde tree, a Japanese paper-plant with its gigantic leaves, a cotoneaster with its graceful lines and dull color, a writhing mass of blue-green aloe, a bright viridian jewel plant, Swainsona, and then a clutter of Poinsettias and a dash of sun roses, all topped off with Cocos plumosa. All of these properly used, are fine plant materials, but in combination, each loses value because the pattern of forms, colors, and textures is too complicated for the human eye and mind.

The clever gardener is like the dress designer who knows that ruffles of tulle, rich velvet, Irish lace, and immense jewels are overwhelming in combination, and that each alone is suitable only for certain occasions. He knows that a cross section of all the plant types available in Southern California is equally overwhelming. His favorites among the striking plants he places carefully for emphasis and contrasting effects, but for the backbone of his plantings he uses a well related group of plants, which for the most part have no individual striking characteristics. If his neighbors are equally intelligent in their selections, the result is a unified appearance and a suitable effect of restful simplicity. For a residential district this is good taste in planting.

Problems of the Soil

(Continued from Page 7)

summer will also provide luxuriant growth. Shrubs frequently fail due to the fact that they do not get normal care."

Among the shrubs recommended by various authorities as being more or less resistant to alkali are the olive, saltbush, Australian tea tree (*Leptospermum*), wild cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*), common oleander, bottle brush (*Callistemon*), silverberry (*Elaeagnus*), pomegranate, tamarix (*T. articulata*), and strawberry tree, (*Arbutus unedo*).

Cleanings

(Continued from Page 6)

couraging commercial ugliness. Our Floral Association should be able to furnish a good nucleus for such a group, and the City Council would beyond a doubt be glad of its cooperation.

Here is something tangible we can do for our beautiful city, along with the tree planting, the growing of poinsettias, the stimulating of interest in gardening in every citizen. Lets not, as the youngsters are saying, "Get into the groove"; let's get OUT of it!

(Editor's Note: Readers, please note that all magazines reviewed are available for circulation at the Public Library, Main Building.

The Flower Show

(Continued from Page 7)

of the Williams Macpherson Gardens of Encinitas. Here, as will be found there, were rare plants from many parts of the globe. How seldom, for instance, do we see the coffee plant, the seed of which comes to the nation as one of the largest items of commerce.

An amateur display of great merit was that of Rex begonias, placed by Mrs. Lisle K. Williams and the Cooper Gardens. Here were scarcely believable shades of pinks and reds and silver . . . fit subjects for the painter's palette.

These floral exhibits in bi-yearly occurrence are an ever increasing educative display for the also ever increasing crowds in attendance. Here will be found by those who look deeply, not only a demonstration in the growing and having of flowers and beauty, but there is also the antidote for that which ails us, these harried times.

There are also a number of alkali-resistant herbaceous plants you can choose from, as the yuccas, New Zealand flax, mesembryanthemum sps., *Iris germanica*, *gazania* sps., gerberas, calendulas, etc. Among the vines suitable for alkaline situations are Japanese ivy, *Rosa de montana*, white-flowering Virgin bower, Japanese honeysuckle.

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AS ARTHUR M. SHOVEN REMARKS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS YEAR'S FLOWER SHOW REPORT, WE DO NOT EXPERIENCE THE DELIGHTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF SNOW. IT IS AVAILABLE, HOWEVER, IN THE NEAR MOUNTAINS FOR THOSE WHO WILL HAVE IT.